

FROM SIENA TO ROME

aside every other thing, be it what it may, and urge on the others to be here soon. Do not delay, do not delay, for the love of God. Enter this garden to labour here ; Fra Raimondo has gone to labour over there, for the Holy Father has sent him to the King of France. Pray God for him, that He may make him a true sower of the truth ; and that he may lay down his life for it, if there be need. The Holy Father bears himself well and royally, like a man virile and just and zealous for the honour of God, as he is." ¹ She wrote simultaneously to the hermits of Spoleto, Frate Andrea da Lucca and his companions ; to Giovanni dalle Celle; to William Flete and Frate Antonio ; urging them to obey the call of the Pope and leave their cells. " I shall see," she wrote to the two of Lecceto, " if we have really conceived love for the reformation of Holy Church ; for, if it is so in sooth, you will follow the will of God and of His vicar ; you will leave the wood, and come to enter the field of battle. But, if you do not do it, you will be disregarding the will of God." ² And to the hermits of Spoleto : " You need not fear delights or great consolations, for you come to endure and to find no pleasure save that of the Cross."⁸ " I pray you for another thing," she says at the end of the letter to Giovanni dalle Celle, " and urge you, in the name of Christ crucified, to go to Florence, and tell those who are your friends, and who can do it, that they be pleased to help their father and keep the promises they have made to him. Let them not show such great ingratitude for the graces they have received from God and from his Holiness. You know well that ingratitude dries up the fountain of piety, and how many graces they have received. And what punishment have they received for the offences that they have committed ? None from him, but only favours. If they do not recognize this, they will receive it from the Supreme Judge, which will be incomparably more severe than any human chastisement. And, therefore, pray them most earnestly to do their duty, and not let themselves

¹ Letter 323 (54).

² Letter 326

(127).

⁸ Letter 327 (135).